

Application No. 10/734,755
Amendment dated October 27, 2006
Reply to Office Action of July 27, 2006

Docket No.: 4444-0131P

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REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-23 and 25-27 are now present in this application.

The specification and claims 1, 14 and 15 have been amended, and claims 10 and 24 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-8, 10 and 12-17 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Huppi et al., U.S. Patent 6,776,497. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Huppi et al. discloses an illumination system for a computer system. In one exemplary embodiment, a light guide panel has a first end and a second end, wherein lights from a light source enter the light guide panel from the first end and exit through the second end. A light guide tube is coupled to the second end of the light guide panel. The light guide tube captures the lights that exit the second end and reflecting the lights downward illuminating at least a portion of a keyboard of the computer system. The chassis that houses the display assembly includes a plurality of holes created along the top edge of the chassis wherein the lights captured and reflected by the light guide tube exit through the plurality of holes.

It is noted that the limitations of claim 10 have been incorporated into independent claim 1, i.e., wherein said light guide has a thickness which decreases linearly from said first side of said light guide, and said light-scattering surface has a plurality of light-scattering protrusions having a density decreasing from said first side of said light guide. It is respectfully submitted that Huppi et al. does not teach or suggest this feature.

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It is also noted that the limitations of claim 24 have been incorporated into independent claim 15, i.e., wherein said light guide has a thickness which decreases linearly from said first side of said light guide, and said light-scattering surface has a plurality of light-scattering protrusions having a density decreasing from said first side of said light guide. It is respectfully submitted that Huppi et al. does not teach or suggest this feature.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the lighting module of independent claim 1 and the lighting keyboard of independent claim 15, as well as their dependent claims, are neither taught or suggested by the prior art utilized by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(e) rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC 103

Claims 3 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Huppi et al. in view of Juijve et al., U.S. Publication 2005/0157971. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 11, 13, 18, 25 and 27 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Huppi et al. in view of Nelson et al., U.S. Patent 6,609,805. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 12 and 26 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Huppi et al. in view of Osaka et al., U.S. Patent 6,023,277. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Huppi et al., U.S. Patent 6,776,497. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

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As discussed above, the limitations of claim 10 have been incorporated into independent claim 1, and that the limitations of claim 24 have been incorporated into independent claim 15. It is respectfully submitted that Huppi et al. does not teach these combinations of features.

Huppi et al. does not disclose that said light guide has a thickness which decreases linearly from said first side of said light guide, and said light-scattering surface has a plurality of light-scattering protrusions having a density decreasing from said first side of said light guide. The secondary references fail to overcome the above-noted deficiencies of the primary reference to Huppi et al.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the lighting module of a keyboard of independent claim 1 and the lighting keyboard of independent claim 15, as well as their dependent claims, are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art utilized by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

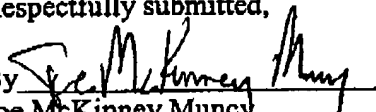
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: October 27, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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